

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-31 are pending in this application.

In the first item of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that the Abstract is objected to because it has more than 150 words. The Abstract has been amended to meet the Examiner's requirement. No new matter has been added to the Abstract. In view of the amendment to the Abstract, the Examiner's objection is believed to be no longer applicable to the present invention.

In the second item of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that the drawings are objected to. In response, the Applicant proposes to amend the drawings of Figures 1A-1C, 3, 4, 5A-5C, 6A-6C and 7 as shown in red on the enclosed copies. The Examiner's approval of the proposed changes is requested.

In the third item of the Office action, the Examiner indicates that the disclosure is objected to because of the following informality: in claim 25, line 1, the phrase "a" should be "an". In response, claims 9 and 25 have been amended to meet the Examiner's requirement. No new matter has been added. In view of the amendment, the Examiner's objection is believed to be no longer applicable to the present invention.

In the fourth item of the Office action, the Examiner indicates that claims 14, 15, 16, 30 and 31 objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being improper because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim. In response to the Examiner's indication, claims 14, 15, 16, 30 and 31 have been amended to correct the improper multiple dependencies. In view of the amendment, the Examiner's objection is believed to be no longer

applicable to the present invention.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 33733.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED UP COPY SHOWING CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 9, 14-16, 25, 30 and 31 have been amended in the following manner:

1 9. (Amended) An appliance maintenance apparatus for maintaining [a] an
2 appliance including a plurality of light outdoors emitting lights showing the operation
3 states of said appliance, comprising:
4 light detecting means for detecting said lights emitted from said light indicators.

1 14. (Amended) An appliance maintenance apparatus as set forth in [claims 1
2 to 13] claim 1 or 9, in which said lights collectively form light information, and which
3 further comprises light information indicating means for indicating said light information
4 detected by said light detecting means.

1 15. (Amended) An appliance maintenance apparatus as set forth in [claims 1 to
2 13] claim 1 or 9, in which said lights collectively form light information, and which
3 further comprises light information storage means for storing light information detected
4 by said light detecting means.

1 16. (Amended) An appliance maintenance apparatus as set forth in [claims 1 to
2 15] claim 1 or 9, which further comprises a remote diagnosis control unit for remotely
3 diagnosing said one or more appliances, a communication unit for communicating with
4 said remote diagnosis control unit, and a communication cable operatively connected to
5 said remote diagnosis control unit and said communication unit to ensure communication

6 between said remote diagnosis control unit and said communication unit.

1 25. (Amended) An appliance remote maintenance system for maintaining [a] an
2 appliance from a remote location, said appliance including a plurality of light indicators
3 emitting lights showing the operation states of said appliance, comprising:

4 an appliance maintenance apparatus including light detecting means for detecting
5 said lights emitted from said light indicators, said lights collectively form light
6 information, and information transmitting means for transmitting said light information
7 detected by said light detecting means through a public network, and

8 a remote diagnosis control apparatus including information receiving means for
9 receiving said information transmitted from said information transmitting means through
10 said public network to ensure the remote diagnosis control of said appliance.

1 30. (Amended) An appliance remote maintenance system as set forth in [claims
2 17 to 29] claim 17 or 25, which further comprises light information indicating means for
3 indicating light information detected by said light information detecting means of said
4 appliance maintenance apparatus.

1 31. (Amended) An appliance remote maintenance system as set forth in [claims
2 17 to 29] claim 17 or 25, which further comprises light information storage means for
3 storing light information detected by said light detecting means of said appliance
4 maintenance apparatus.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

The abstract has been amended in the following manner:

1 [Herein disclosed an] An appliance maintenance apparatus for contactlessly detecting the
2 operation states of appliances[, and can operate] and operating the appliances in response
3 to the operation states of the appliances, and an appliance remote maintenance system
4 which comprises a plurality of appliance maintenance apparatuses, and a remote
5 diagnosis control apparatus which is communicatable with the appliance maintenance
6 apparatus through a public network to ensure the remote diagnosis control of the
7 appliance maintenance apparatus from a remote place. [The appliance maintenance
8 apparatus according to the present invention is constituted partly by a plurality of light
9 receiving elements 125 respectively arranged in face-to-face and space relationship with
10 the LED light indicators 5 and reset switch operating means 129 to operate the reset
11 switch 9. The reset switch operating means 129 is constituted by a plunger mounted on
12 the front cover 121 in face-to-face and spaced relationship with the reset switch 9 and
13 surrounded by a solenoid coil so that the reset switch 9 is pushed down by the plunger
14 129 when the plunger 129 is electrically operated with the solenoid coil energized to reset
15 the concerned appliances and restore the fault appliances without a service person
16 dispatched to or resident at the site where the appliances are installed.]